



CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the St. Louis Region Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Centers

*The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center
&
The Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center*

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June/July 2006

Camps, Camps, Camps and More Camps!

Free outdoor camp opportunity await region youths

Get off the couch, turn off the TV and computer, put down the video game controllers and head to the outdoors.

Many individuals have great memories of summer camp and fun activities they enjoyed. The St. Louis region has many opportunities for youth to get involved in activities and make the summer memorable for them. Both Busch and Henges Shooting Ranges & Outdoor Education Centers will be offering several summer day camps for youth ages 11 and up.

These camps cover a multitude of outdoor activities and are great educational opportunities. Camp registration is on a first come first serve basis and free of charge.

The Busch and Henges facilities will be each offering a week long Youth Hunter Education Day Camp. These camps

cal application of the course. This includes first aid, ethics, landowner relations, water safety, orienteering, dressing for the outdoors, shooting archery equipment, black powder muzzle loaders, shotguns, .22 cal rifles, and many more fun activities.



Busch will be holding their 4th annual Youth Outdoor Skills Day Camp and Henges will once again hold their extremely popular and traditional Youth Hunter Skills Day Camp, both a week long. These camps vary in activities and may include wildlife wood working projects, bird and game calling, map and compass, canoeing, hiking, campfire building, wildlife ID, birding, backpacking, fishing, conservation issues, archery, high power rifle, shotgun, & black powder muzzle loading rifle shooting, trapping, and many more topics.



Busch is introducing three new three-day camps. Youth Archery Camp, Youth NRA/ATA Trap Shooting Camp and a Youth NRA/NSSA Skeet Shooting Camp. Henges will be introducing a new three day Youth Trap Camp, additionally.

Camps will be conducted with MDC Staff, Hunter Education, NADA and NRA Certified Instructors, and guest speakers from the area. All youth will receive camp t-shirts and a Special Graduation Lunch. Parents are welcome to attend with their youth and observe. For more information just look inside at our program pages or visit us on the web.



allow the attendee to become Missouri Hunter Education Certified and enjoy actual hands on activities that allow practi-

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More Teen Girls Are Gunning for Fun

Smoothbore sports attract growing participation

Annie Oakley would be proud to see that there's a new and growing crop of young female shooters following in her footsteps on the firing line.

Teenage girls are discovering the shooting sports in record numbers, according to recent surveys. Participation by girls age 12 to 17 has shot up dramatically in the last five years. For the shotgun sports, it's up 56 percent—from 133,000 in 1999 to 208,000 in 2004, according to a National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) report.

Helping to drive this trend are programs such as NSSF's highly successful Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) that encourage youth and female participation in shooting and hunting, observes Cyndi Dalena, NSSF director of shooting sports development.

"Nationwide, over a third of all female participants in shotgun sports today are under 24," Dalena observed. "There's a growing youth movement in shooting, and it's a credit to the many programs that are opening doors and creating opportunities for women of all ages to enjoy outdoor lifestyles."

Last year, female participation in SCTP increased 84 percent, Dalena said.



Female participation in NSSF's Scholastic Clay Target Program increased by 84 percent in 2005.

Overall, the number of female participants of all ages in the shotgun sports in 2004 was 1,309,000, up 11 percent from 1,177,000 in 1997.

Dana cited other programs such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman, the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors and various efforts of the Second Amendment Foundation, that are helping women discover the shooting sports. NSSF's Step Outside outdoor mentoring program is also introducing more newcomers—including significant numbers of girls and young women—to traditional outdoor sports.

Parental approval and support are critical factors in the success of any youth program. A survey last year of SCTP parents found that 94 percent felt the program had a positive

influence on their child's development, and the same percentage would like to see it become a school-based athletic program. An overwhelming 98 percent ranked the shooting program as just as important as other school sports.

More women of all ages are also hunting. About 20 percent more women hunted in 2004 than in previous years, according to various studies.

"Shooting is not all about strength or speed," Dalena said. "It's about coordination and concentration, and more and more girls are discovering that those skills are great equalizers. Girls can compete with boys, and that's part of the attraction."

For more information visit www.nssf.org/sctp

(Source: NSSF Reports, Photos courtesy of NSSF)



Shooting provides a level playing field for girls to compete with boys.

Teens Go For Gold and Bragging Rights

Missouri State High School & Jr. High Trap Shooting Championships

Teams and individuals from High Schools and Junior High Schools around the state and 1 team from Illinois met at Linn Creek Trap Shooting Facility to compete in the Missouri State Championships. Part of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) Scholastic Clay Target Program and sponsored by the Missouri Trap Shooters Association (MTA) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), this year's event grew to almost 600 youth participating in this competition held April 8th in great weather just outside of Lake of the Ozarks.

With over 65 team and individual awards just waiting to be won, these disciplined and focused youth took to the trap fields with dreams of taking top honors. Each shooter had to shoot four rounds of trap, 100 clay targets. Several teens obtained perfect scores of 100. There were several teams and individuals that tied, which were broken by reverse scoring except High Overall. The High Overall award had to be determined by an actual shoot off by several individual shooters. Shooters were scored and officiated by officials from the MTA and MDC.

Teams are from High Schools, Jr. High Schools, FFA teams, All Girls teams, and open teams from gun clubs, scouts, 4-H, YHEC, Career Centers, etc. and individuals not on teams shooting for individual awards only, team shooters compete for team and individual awards.

Shooters from the St. Louis Region made their presence felt, DeSmet Jesuit, Arnold teams, Steelville teams, and several individuals. Arnold Shooters won the High School Team Championship and the Jr. High School Team Championship. Arnold Shooter's Josh Creswell took the Runner Up position for all High School Freshmen. In High School Teams Steelville took 5th and 21st, while only their first year in competition DeSmet Jesuit placed 14th. Arnold Shooters 2nd team additionally took 7th in the High School Open Teams. For complete scores and information visit: www.motraps.com

August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE **FREE OF CHARGE** TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

Fish Preparation & Deep Frying

Thursday, 1st – 6pm to 9pm

Filleting, skinning, de-scaling, breaded and battered, Missouri's fish can be prepared in all differing manner. Come and let us show you just a few of the ways to prepare your fresh fish for a great meal. We will also show how to use today's outdoor deep fryers and allow you to dine on some of Missouri's tastiest entrees. **Registration opens April 15th.**



Skeet Shooting Basics

Wednesday, 7th – Classroom 6pm to 9pm
& Thursday, 8th – Shooting 6pm to 9pm

This course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for all individuals, with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of skeet shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #8 or #9 shot skeet loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens April 20th.**



Intermediate Skeet Shooting

Saturday, 10th 8am to noon

This course is for shotgun shooters **experienced in skeet shooting or have previously taken the MDC Shotgun Basics and Sport Shooting course.** Clinic will focus on game improvement and working on techniques and problem areas of individuals. This course will not cover basic shotgun or beginning skeet techniques. **Individuals deemed inexperienced or lacking sufficient knowledge by the staff, will be released from the course.** Course size is limited, experienced youth under 16 must attend with an adult. **Registration opens April 20th.**



Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

Monday, 12th thru Friday, 16th
8:30am to 3:30pm each day

Hunter Education Certification Youth Day Camp, open to ages 11 to 15 who have not passed the Missouri Hunter Education Course, youth must bring birth certificate to first day. Must attend all sessions and pass test to receive certificate. Camp will cover Missouri's Hunter Education Course and provide hands on practical skills, i.e. .22 cal rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, archery, game calling, orienteering and much more. Camp is extremely popular and limited in size. **Registration opens April 15th.**



Intermediate Trap Shooting

Saturday, 17th – 8am to noon

This course is for shotgun shooters experienced in trap shooting or have previously taken the MDC Shotgun Basics and Sport Shooting course. Clinic will focus on game improvement and working on techniques and problem areas of individuals. This course will not cover basic shotgun or beginning trap techniques. Individuals deemed inexperienced or lacking sufficient knowledge by the staff, will be released from the course. Course size is limited, experienced youth under 16 must attend with an adult. **Registration opens May 2nd.**



JUNE PROGRAMS

Youth Archery Camp

Tuesday, 20th thru Thursday, 22nd
8:30am to 12:30pm each day

This 3-day program will cover all the archery's history, ethics, Safety, equipment, preparations, stinging bows, practice, shooting at scoring targets, maintenance of equipment and much more. All instructors are NADA certified and NAA members. ALL equipment will be provided by MDC, however participants may bring their own. **Registration opens May 3rd.**



Pan Fishing Clinic

Tuesday, 20th 6pm to 9pm

Bluegill, Bream, Perch, Sunfish, Pumpkin Seed, Rock Bass, Shell Cracker; panfish are known by many names and species. How do you catch these fish and have some of the most enjoyment. Come let us fill you in on equipment, techniques, bait, lures, and how to hook these tough fighters. After a short classroom presentation we will move to one of our Busch Lakes for actual fishing fun. Attendees must meet license requirements. **Registration opens May 5th.**



Trap Shooting Basics

Wednesday, 21st – Classroom 6pm to 9pm
& Thursday, 22nd – Shooting 6pm to 9pm

This course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for individuals with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of trap shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #7 1/2 or #8 shot trap/target loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens May 7th.**



Youth Outdoor Skills Day Camp

Monday, 26th thru Friday, 30th
8:30am to 3:30pm each day

A great way to get your youth exposed to more outdoor opportunities available in Missouri. This event is for youth, ages 10-15. Youth will participate in: advanced firearms shooting, archery, orienteering, fishing, wood working for wildlife, camp fire building, and many other hands on activities. Topics to be covered include: wildlife biology and management, hunting whitetail deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, small game, upland game, predator hunting and furbearer trapping and more. Camp is free and has a limited number of openings. Prerequisites: Youth must be 10 to 15 years of age. Youth need to bring sack lunch and drink Monday thru Thursday, lunch provided on Friday. **Registration opens May 15th.**



tips on muzzle blast

For safe shooting and to protect your gundog's hearing...

- *When your dog's on point, don't walk up right next to him and fire over his head; walk in on the bird several feet to the right or left.*
- *If your dog crowds birds or creeps in on them, watch your muzzle distance and direction from the dog's head. Best yet, whoa him when you walk in to flush the bird.*
- *When you're in the duck blind, keep your dog beside you, not in front of you.*
- *Don't shoot over your dog as he's returning from a retrieve.*
- *Keep your eyes open, your hands on the gun, and your pocket full of beefy treats.*

I have known many meat eaters to be far more non-violent than vegetarians. *Mahatma Gandhi*

August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE *FREE OF CHARGE* TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

Canoeing Basics

Saturday, 1st – 9am to 2pm



Interested in the basics of canoeing? This short program will include information different types of canoes available, gear needed, how to read a stream, and types of paddle strokes used to control the canoe. We will then move to one of the lakes to practice actual hands on experience, so dress appropriately. Ages 13 and above only, ages 13 thru 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants must have the ability to tread water. **Registration opens May 16th.**

Trap Shooting Basics

Wednesday, 5th – Classroom 6pm to 9pm

& Thursday, 6th – Shooting 6pm to 9pm



This course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for individuals with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of trap shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #7 1/2 or #8 shot trap/target loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens May 25th.**

Missouri Hunter Education Certification course

Tuesday, 11th thru Thursday, 13th

5:30pm to 9:30pm each night



Hunter Education Certification Course, start time 5:30pm each night, open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test. Have problems making weekend courses, want to miss the crowds? This class is for you, held on three consecutive week nights for those with busy weekends and tight schedules. **Registration opens May 30th.**

Skeet Shooting Basics

Thursday, 13th – 6pm to 9pm

& Saturday, 15th 8am to noon



his course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for all individuals, with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of skeet shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #8 or #9 shot skeet loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens June 1st.**

Why Are Youth Programs Important?

By Cheryl Riley, Pheasants Forever Youth Program Coordinator

If you ever wonder if the time and money put into planning and sponsoring a youth event is worth it, take just a moment to consider some interesting (and scary) statistics about what's going on with today's youth:

- American children in 2004 spent less than half as much time outdoors as their parents did.
- Kids are reported to spend more than 30 hours a week in front of some kind of electronic device.
- Articles and books now talk about “nature-deficit disorder” in today's children.
- More parents are working and they are working longer hours
 - o 68% of families have both parents working and wage earners worked an average of 11 hours a day in 2000.
- Most of the U.S. population now lives in non-rural housing and

JULY PROGRAMS

Parent & Child Over-night Campout

Saturday, 15th – 4pm to 10 am Sunday, 16th



Course will include camping basics, camp set-up, fire starting, cooking, equipment selections, and preparation. **Registration opens May 30th.**

Youth NRA/ATA Trap Shooting Camp

Tuesday, 18th thru Thursday, 20th

8:30am to 12:30pm each day

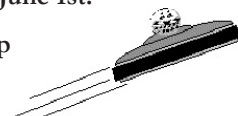


This three-day camp is designed to take youth though 11 different lessons to thoroughly learn the games of trap. Lessons are designed to stress safety and discipline of handling firearms. Shotguns and ammunition are provided as part of the camp. Attendees may bring their own firearm and ammunition if they wish. Camp is open to youth 10 to 16 years of age and youth must be able to handle and control the shotgun without help. **Registration opens June 1st.**

Youth NRA/NSSA Skeet Shooting Camp

Tuesday, 25th thru Thursday, 27th

8:30am to 12:30pm each day



This three-day camp is designed to take youth though 7 different lessons to thoroughly learn the game of American Skeet. Lessons are designed to stress safety and discipline of handling firearms. Shotguns and ammunition are provided as part of the camp. Attendees may bring their own firearm and ammunition if they wish. Camp is open to youth 10 to 16 years of age and youth must be able to handle and control the shotgun. **Registration opens June 10th.**

MDC Outdoor Adventure Expo

Saturday, 29th - 9am to 3pm



This FREE one day event will highlight Missouri's outdoor community and gives an opportunity to visit and talk with the experts on hiking, camping, backpacking, GPS, canoeing, clothing, natural products, wildlife habitat, archery, hunting, fishing, biking, Katy Trail, shooting, birding, outdoor accessories and much, much more. There will be FREE air rifle shooting, archery shooting, shotgun shooting, and manufacture firearms to test fire, plus many other demos (like fly casting, and more). No commercial sales may take place on MDC property, this is a chance to get information, literature, and questions answered in an unpressured setting.

that is expected to increase.

- Outdoor activity is linked with lower obesity rates. (Clinical obesity has quadrupled to 1 in 5 children in the U.S.)
- Playing in nature increases attention span, concentration and focus!

We know that active participation in hunting fishing as an adult is directly related to active participation as a youth. So it makes sense to start youth early if we want them to enjoy the outdoor traditions we cherish.

But even more important—getting them outdoors tromping around fields or forests, taking aim at clay birds with a shotgun, or a rifle, with a fishing pole or sitting around a campfire listening to night sounds makes for healthier kids. In that natural experience, they benefit from time with family and /of friends, they learn new skills, their curiosity is piqued, they get away from the frantic pace and demands of their lives and their senses come alive with new sights, sounds, smells. They may not know they need it—but you know they do!

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE **FREE OF CHARGE** TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

JUNE PROGRAMS

Outdoor Cooking with Dutch Ovens

Thursday, 1st – 6pm to 9pm

Learn how to cook outdoors using Dutch ovens. We will cook up an assortment of delicacies over open coals or propane gas. Bring an appetite! **Registration opens May 1st.**



Adult Handgun Shooting

Monday, 5th – Classroom 6:30pm to 8:30pm

& Tuesday, 6th – Shooting 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Topics covered will be fundamentals of safely firing a handgun, different styles of holding the handgun while standing or bench resting. This program will have live fire using small to medium caliber revolvers and semi-automatic handguns. **Registration opens May 5th.**



Youth Archery

Wednesday, 7th – Classroom 6:30pm to 8:30pm

& Saturday's, 10th & 11th Shooting 9am to noon

This class is designed to teach students the fundamentals of archery shooting. This course will consist of three parts, one lecture class, and two weekend sessions shooting sessions. **Registration opens May 9th.**



Intermediate American Trap

Thursday's 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

6pm to 8pm each night

Improve your American Trap shooting game. We will learn, movement, stance, gun mount, and vision. The first session is lecture. The next three sessions will be on the trap field with personalized instruction. **Registration opens May 9th.**



Beginning Shotgun

Saturday, 10th – noon to 4pm

Learn the basics of shotgun selection, proper fit, ammunition choices, safety, shooting skills, and shotgun games. There will be a shooting activity for this program. This is a great husband and wife or family program. **Registration opens May 10th.**



Youth Hunter Education Day camp

Monday, 12th thru Friday, 16th

8:30am to 3:30pm each day

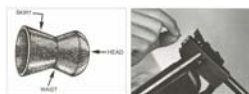
Camp activities include the Missouri Hunter Education certification as well as practical application of shooting and hunting skills. Participants will need to bring their own lunches Monday through Thursday. **Registration opens May 1st.**



Youth Airgun

Saturday, 17th – 8:30am to 10am

Learn the proper techniques of shooting airguns. This program will include safety, shooting positions, fundamentals including trigger control, breathing, with some fun targets. **Registration opens May 17th.**



The "Kentucky Rifle" was made by gunsmiths in every state the length of the Appalachian Mountains. But the Kentucky rifle, or the American rifle as it was also known, really originated where?

Lancaster, PA

How to use a Global Positioning System (GPS)

Saturday, 17th – noon to 4pm

Learn all about using a Global Positioning System (GPS). This course will include a lecture and an outdoor activity. Instruction will include the basics of using a handheld GPS device for navigating over land and water. **Registration opens May 17th.**



BSA Shotgun Merit Badge

Tuesday, 20th – Classroom 6pm to 9pm

& Wednesday, 21st – Shooting 5pm to 9pm

This BSA program will be taught by NRA and Missouri Hunter Education instructors. This is a 2-day program. Program includes a 3 hour session on firearms safety, nomenclature, ammunition, and shooting fundamentals. Session 2 will include live fire proficiency testing. This is a popular BSA program and classes fill quickly. This program is designed to be an organized troop activity. Scout leaders must provide a 1 to 5 student ratio. Register early. **Registration opens May 22nd.**



BB Gun Shooting for Kids

Wednesday, 20th – 6pm to 8pm

Learn the basics of shooting a BB gun. Marksmanship skills including shooting fundamentals, safety, nomenclature, maintenance, and proper ammunition. We will shoot at some fun targets! **Registration opens May 26th.**



Range Rules to Remember....

by Jim Engel, Henges Range Officer

"Cease Fire"

When you hear this command the first thing you must immediately do is take your finger off the trigger! No ands, ifs, or buts! If you are in the process of pulling the trigger, do NOT take the shot. I realize sometimes you just want to get that last shot off to complete your group, but you must resist the urge. Next, keep the muzzle pointing down range, open the action and unload the firearm. Place the firearm in the gun rack and, if you are on the rifle/pistol range step out of your booth. During a cease fire you cannot handle any firearms.

We call cease fires on a time schedule but, it's also called for safety reasons. At any time a cease fire might be called for any number of reasons. One instance is something down range as happened. Several times I've seen deer, turkey, and even a coyote has found its way onto the down range area and was just walking around during live fire. Hard to believe but it happens. Heaven forbid, but even a lost hiker or mushroom hunter could wander in. Another example is a shooter either having a problem of some sort or is in violation of safety rules.

Which brings up another point, anyone can call a cease fire; you, me or someone just watching the activities. If you see or feel anything not right that might be a safety concern, call CEASE FIRE. Call it at least twice and call it loudly. When the line is safe, the concern can be checked out. As they say; better safe than sorry.

Other than the 3 golden rules... **Always** keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target, and **Always** keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use, in my opinion this is the next important rule to follow.

With ear protection and other shooters firing it can get hard to hear. But keep alert for those two words and everyone will stay safe and sound.

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

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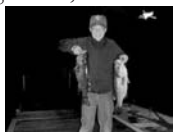
Modern Arrow Building Saturday, 1st – 9am to 11am

Learn how to tailor your arrows to match your specific archery needs. We will learn the techniques of attaching nocks, inserts and fletching. **Registration opens June 1st.**



Night Fishing Friday, 7th – 7pm to 11pm

Enjoy a relaxing evening under the stars learning techniques of night fishing. We will provide fishing equipment to those who do not have their own. Bring your own lawn chair and mosquito spray and a cooler to hold your drink and catch. **Registration opens June 2nd.**



Let's Smoke Some Wild Game Saturday, 8th – noon to 3pm

Learn how to prepare wild game in a smoker or kettle. We will discuss marinades, proper temperatures, and types of woods for various flavors. The class will sample some of the smoked meats we prepare. **Registration opens June 1st.**



Rifle Shooting Series Tuesday's, 11th, 18th & 25th 6:30pm to 8:30pm each night

This program will concentrate on shooting fundamentals and shooting positions. Emphasis on accuracy and having fun at the same time. This program will involve live firing using competition and sport rifles. **Registration opens June 9th.**



Youth Hunting Skills Camp Wednesday, 12th thru Friday, 14th 3pm to 8pm each evening

This is an advanced skills camp. Instruction will include shooting skills in rifle, archery, and muzzleloader, and outdoors skills including direction finding, game care, survival, and more. This program is based on the skills of the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Must be hunter education certified. **Registration opens June 1st.**



JULY PROGRAMS

Canoeing Basics Thursday, 13th – 6pm to 9pm

Learn how to prepare for a canoe trip. We will teach the various paddle strokes to allow you to control the canoe. This is a great family program! **Registration opens June 2nd.**



How to Mount Your Rifle Scope Wednesday, 19th – 6pm to 8:30pm

We will assist you in correctly mounting your scope on your firearm. Course will include a short lecture, help with mounting, and then bore sighting your equipment. **Registration opens June 19th.**



Basic Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals Thursday, 20th – Classroom 6:30pm to 9pm & Saturday, 22nd – Shooting 9am to 1pm

This is a two part course. We will learn the basics of shooting a shotgun including safety, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, live fire, and maintenance. Bring your own shotgun and ammunition (2 boxes of #7 1/2 or 8 shot), eye and ear protection. Equipment will be provided to those who do not have their own. **Registration opens June 19th.**



How to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) Saturday, 17th – noon to 4pm

Learn all about using a Global Positioning System (GPS). This course will include a lecture and an outdoor activity. Instruction will include the basics of using a handheld GPS device for navigating over land and water. **Registration opens May 17th.**



Basic Archery Thursday, 27th – Classroom 6:30pm to 8:30pm & Saturday, 29th – Shooting 9am to 11am

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow. We will learn safety, fitting equipment to the shooter and shooting techniques. A fun family program for all ages! **Registration opens June 19th.**



Salsa Making for Wild Game Wednesday, 26th – 6pm to 9pm

Tomato season is here. What to do with your abundance of tomatoes? Come out and learn the basics of making your own salsa. This class will include the ingredients and various ways to make your own homemade salsa. You will make your own sample in this class. **Registration opens June 21st.**



LINDENWOOD CLEANS UP AT COLLEGE SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIPS...

Shotgun teams from Lindenwood University dominated the field at the recent Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships. Teams from the St. Charles, Mo., school placed 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th at the event. Texas A&M finished second overall. Ryan Caferelli, a former competitor in NSSF's Scholastic Clay Target Program, took first place in individual American skeet for Lindenwood. The event, held August 5-9 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, included shooters from more than 20 colleges and universities competing in international trap, international skeet, American trap, American skeet and sporting clays. NSSF is a major sponsor of the annual event. The competition will air in June on ESPN U and may also be simulcast on ESPN2. Dates and air times will be announced soon.

Did you pick up this Conservation Connections Newsletter at a business or range?

Just give us a call with the mailing address of your friends, family, and/or yourself and we will mail it right to your home or business.

**For a Free
Conservation Connections Newsletter
Subscription call
(636) 441-4554**



St. Louis Region Hunter Education Certification Courses

ALL COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

(additional courses listed on range program pages)

The Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit or deer and turkey transportation tags. Many of our free youth managed hunts and clinics require both youth and adult to be certified.

Open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have an adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend all sessions and pass an exam to become certified.

Topics included: hunter ethics and responsibility, firearms and ammunition, firearms safety, hunter preparation, first aid and survival, hunter skills, primitive hunting equipment, and wildlife conservation, management and identification.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place early and check on any special requirements, bringing of lunches, or fees needed for that location. All regional classes scheduled can be seen on the regional web site at: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

MDC Managed Hunts 2006-2007

Pending Commission Approval at early June Meeting

Application Period: July 1st - August 15th

Application Method (after July 1st)

online: www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/deer

phone: 1-800-829-2956

Are Managed Deer Hunts Worth Applying For???

By: Floyd Bohler, HE Instructor & Busch Range Volunteer

Managed Deer Hunts: Permitting a small controlled number of hunters a short amount of time to harvest one animal on property usually located close to populated areas.

There are numerous Managed Deer Hunts throughout the State of Missouri. Thousand Hills State Park near Kirksville, Columbia Bottom conservation Area in North St. Louis County, Weldon Spring and Busch Memorial Conservation Areas in Southern St. Charles County, just to name a few.

Some of the select areas have more than one hunt. An Area may have three different archery hunts, a muzzleloader hunt and a modern firearms youth hunt.

Over the last twelve years, I have applied each year for one of these hunts, being lucky enough to have been drawn to participate in six different hunts. Of these six hunts, deer were harvested on three of the hunts. One would have to believe that the chances of being selected were only 50% with a success rate of only 50% when drawn. Thousands of people apply for these hunts. Some get selected more often than others because everyone wants the early hunts, so there are more deer available. Your odds of being drawn may increase if you apply for the later hunts.

The 2005 year was my best hunt ever. Three of us applied together. My buddies were not seeing deer at all the first three days. After telling them every day that I was seeing deer just out of range, counting 27 does and 2 bucks on day three, we decided to move their tree stands on day four into the area where the deer were being observed. They too began to see deer.

Not only did I see 96 deer in thirteen days, but for the first time I observed two bucks lock horns and push each other around for about thirty minutes. They were only spike bucks and were over a hundred yards away. I wasn't the only one watching either, as there were eight does watching too. I actually heard a doe bleat and a buck grunt in the wild for the first time on this hunt. (I had heard a buck grunt on a television hunting program but, it sounded nothing like hearing it in the wild)

On three days of the hunt, does were sighted within my bow range. They were allowed to pass me by for a chance at an eight pointer which I saw on day one of the hunt, but was out of range for a shot.

Not all hunts were this good. One time I had set up in an area when two guys began cutting down trees on day two of the hunt. By the time I located another area to set-up in, the hunt was over. On another hunt, a pack of hound and a gentleman on horse back just about ran me over. (You must remember that on these managed areas, other activities are still going on.)

What is important to you is what matters when it comes to whether the hunt is worth applying for or not. To me, hunting close to home (within 30 miles) being able to sleep in my own bed every night, home cooked meals verses fast foods, and no expense of travel, motels or campground fees, is just icing on the cake.



Mr. Terry McCarty (pictured), St. Charles County Hunter Education Coordinator and St. Louis Region's Urban Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year award winner for 2005

St. Charles County

Location: St. Charles Community College

Date: July 8th & 9th

Time: 9am to 4pm each day

Registration#: (636) 922-8233

Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Busch Conservation Area

Date: April 20th & 21st

Time: 9am to 4pm each day

Registration#: (636) 441-4554

St. Louis County

Location: Florissant Valley Community College

Date: July 15th & 16th

Time: 9am to 4pm each day

Registration#: (314) 513-4444

Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Columbia Bottom CA

Date: July 22nd & 23rd

Time: 9am to 4pm each day

Registration#: (314) 877-6019

Bowhunter Education Certification

Location: Powder Valley NC, Kirkwood

Date: July 28th & 29th

Time: 28th - 6pm to 9pm & 29th - 9am to 4pm

Registration#: (314) 301-1500

Remember to check us out on the web for additions, updates and future programs.

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

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Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304-2215
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JEFFERSON CITY MO
PERMIT 274

Look On The Web And Register For Our Up Coming Outdoor Programs Here Are Just A Few!

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch or www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

August

At Busch

1st Archery Equipment Repair & Maintenance
4th Bowhunter Education
8th NRA Basic Shotgun Certification
30th Waterfowl Hunting & Calling Seminar

At Henges

1st, 15th & 29th Ladies Trap Series
2nd, 3rd & 4th Youth Trap Camp
12th & 13th Youth Trapping Clinic

September

At Henges

5th Predator Calling
10th NWTF Jakes Event
16th Youth Waterfowl Clinic
29th & 30th Family Camping and Outdoor Cooking

At Busch

1st Youth Dove Hunting Clinic & Hunt
9th NRA Whitetail Deer Hunting Clinic
10th Whitetail Deer Field to Freezer
16th Women In The Outdoors Event

Outdoor Education Center Volunteers Wanted

Do you like working with people of all ages? We are continually looking for individuals who enjoy sharing their time, love for the outdoors and dedication to conservation. If you are interested contact us at:

Busch (636) 300-1953 ext 251

Henges (636) 938-9548

**No MORE
Trash!**